

CLAIMS:

1. A method for treating woollen textiles, **characterized** in that it comprises the following steps:
 - 5 - bringing a woollen textile in an aqueous solution into contact with a protease enzyme in a large amount of water so as to move the woollen textile as little as possible or not at all at a temperature of about 60°C or less for 10 to 90 min,
 - 10 - inactivating the enzyme by raising the temperature to over about 60°C or reducing the pH to between 4 and 5,
 - making the woollen textile dry in mechanical drying at a temperature of about 60°C or less to a residual moisture content of 10 to 45%, and
 - carrying out final drying without mechanics.
2. A method for treating woollen textiles, **characterized** in that it comprises the following steps:
 - 15 - bringing the woollen textile in an aqueous solution into contact with a protease enzyme in a large amount of water so as to move the woollen textile as little as possible or not at all at a temperature of about 60°C or less for 10 to 90 min,
 - 20 - taking the woollen textile to dyeing conditions and dyeing the textile,
 - making the woollen textile dry in mechanical drying at a temperature of about 60°C or less to a residual moisture content of 10 to 45%, and
 - carrying out final drying without mechanics.
3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized** in that the protease treatment is carried out under neutral or alkaline conditions, preferably at a pH of between 6 and 11.
4. The method according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the protease is serine protease.
5. The method according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that, during the protease treatment, the mechanics is adjusted to 4 to 10 rpm, preferably to 4 to 6 rpm.

6. The method according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that, during the protease treatment, the ratio of the weight of the dry woollen textile to water is between 1/10 – 1/40, preferably 1/20 – 1/40.
7. The method according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that, during the protease treatment, the temperature is from 35 to 55°C, preferably from 40 to 50°C.
8. The method according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the woollen textile is knitted fabric.
9. The method according to claim 8, **characterized** in that the amount of protease used, as calculated in protein, is less than 8 mg/g, preferably below 4.4 mg/g of dry knitted fabric.
10. The method according to claim 8 or 9, **characterized** in that the protease treatment time is from 15 to 60, preferably from 15 to 30 min.
11. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 7, **characterized** in that the woollen textile is a woven fabric.
12. The method according to claim 11, **characterized** in that the amount of protease use, calculated as protein, is less than 35 mg/g, preferably less than 17.5 mg/g of dry fabric.
13. The method according to claim 11 or 12, **characterized** in that the protease treatment time is from 15 to 60 min, preferably from 15 to 45 min.
14. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that, before mechanical drying, the moisture content of the woollen textile is spin-dried to 50 to 70%.
15. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that mechanical drying is carried out to residual moisture content of 10 to 30%.
16. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the final drying is carried out in a flat or hanging form, preferably at room temperature.
17. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the protease treatment is carried out to a dyed woollen textile.

18. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 16, **characterized** in that the woollen textile is dyed in conjunction with the wet process.

19. A woollen textile made by the method according to any one of claims 1 to 18, **characterized** in that the woollen textile endures at least 5 washes according to the
5 wool washing program, so that the shrinkage is less than 3% and no essential increase in pilling and/or felting takes place.